

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7918

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: NEW CITY COUNCILS TAKE OVER ON WEST BANK - PART TWO

REF: JERUSALEM 0572

1. NEW CITY COUNCILS WERE INSTALLED IN 14 ADDITIONAL WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES APRIL 27. ONLY ONE SMALL TOWN, ARRABAX (NEAR JENIN), REMAINS WITHOUT A MAYOR AS COUNCIL THERE IS SPLIT. IN ALL CASES MILGOV CONFIRMED NOMINEE OF COUNCIL AS MAYOR.

2. MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES AND NEW MAYORS AS FOLLOWS:
HEBRON - FAHD QAwasima, BETHLEHEM - ELIAS FREIJ, JERICHO - ABDALAZIZ SWAITI, JENIN - AHMED SHAWKI MAHMOUD, BEIT JALA - BISHARA DAOUD AND BEIT SAHUR - HANNA KHOURI AL ATRASH.

3. JERICHO'S SWAITI RAN FIFTH IN POPULAR VOTING BUT HEADED THE NATIONALIST TICKET WHICH PUT 5 OF ITS CANDIDATES ON THE 8-MAN COUNCIL.

4. JENIN'S AHMED SHAWKI MAHMOUD RAN SECOND BUT GAINED SUP-

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PORT OF NEW FACES ON THE COUNCIL. FORMER MAYOR AHMED SA'ADI,

WHO RAN FIRST, HAS REPORTEDLY RESIGNED HIS COUNCIL SEAT IN PROTEST.

5. EL BIREH'S NEW MAYOR, IBRAHIM ALI SOLIMAN TAWIL (JERUSALEM 572), WHO RAN FOURTH IN POPULAR VOTING AND WAS NOT A MEMBER OF "NATIONALIST" TICKET, IS CONSIDERED MORE MODERATE AND LESS FORCEFUL THAN AHMED MA'RUF, THE FRONTRUNNER AND NATIONALIST TICKET HEAD. (COMMENT: A RELATIVE OF RAMALLAH'S MAYOR KARIM KHALAF SAYS TAWIL'S APPOINTMENT MAKES KHALAF EFFECTIVELY MAYOR OF RAMALLAH'S TWIN CITY EL BIRH AS WELL).

6. THE ARABIC DAILY AL'ANBA REPORTED APRIL 26 THAT FOUR UN-SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FROM BETHLEHEM HAVE GONE TO COURT TO CHARGE ELECTION IRREGULARITIES. SIMILAR CASES REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN PRESENTED BY CANDIDATES FROM JERICHO, HALHUL, DURA, YATTA, AND BETUNIA AS WELL.

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